STATUS REPORT FY 20-21

II. ONE UW-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK BY 2022







#### II. ONE UW-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK BY 2022

#### Target Actions

- Adopt a University-wide Definition of Sustainability
- Develop Standardized Reporting of Academic Content
- Identify Minimum Learning Outcomes
- Determine Feasibility of a Student Sustainability Hub

#### Sustainability Plan guiding principle



AASHE STARS categories

AC1 Academic Courses Academic Outcomes

### **BASELINE METRIC:**

- Percentage of Sustainability Course Offerings: **28.5%**
- Percentage of academic departments with sustainability related course offerings: **62.3%** (2018 STARS DATA)

### Q1 ACTIVITY:

- Formed a multidisciplinary Faculty Advisory Group.
- Began scoping the project for UW-wide definition of sustainability with Target Team
- Reviewing previous work on definition of sustainability from 2015.

Action	Kyle McDermott (Campus Sustainability Fund)
Owner:	

Target<br/>Team:Name(s): Claudia Frere-Anderson (UWS), Christoph Strouse (UWS),<br/>Isabel Carrera Zamanillo (CoENV), Amy Kim (Faculty), Derek Fulwiler,<br/>Meher Antia (Population Health), Ben Packard (EarthLab), Jennifer<br/>Davison (Urban@UW)

### **ACTION STATUS:**

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Action: Adopt University-wide definition of Sustainability		
Action: Develop standardized reporting of academic content	×	
Action: Identify minimum learning outcomes		
Action: Determine feasibility of a student Sustainability Hub		

### CHALLENGES:

One definition of sustainability is challenging to agree upon in academia.
A definition of Sustainability is currently a precursor to achieving subsequent Actions in Targets 2 and 3.

### **RISKS:**

- Not having a definition/framework of Sustainability could hold up further action without a work around.

### **NEXT QUARTER ACTION:**

- Organizing a workshop to develop the Sustainability Framework and definition with students and other faculty.



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AASHE STARS categories



### **STEPS STATUS:**

X

Action 1: O Adopt a University-wide Definition of Sustainability	Step 1: O UW community members will help to create an inclusive definition of sustainability	Step 2: O UW Environmental Stewardship Committee approves shared framework, then publishes.	Step 3: O Seek funding for a .50 or 1.0 FTE Sustainability Academic Coordinator manager position	
Action 2: X Develop Standardized Reporting of Academic Content	<b>Step 1:</b> O build centralized reporting platform to collect info and assess incorporation of sustainability	Step 2: X Design a set of instructions on how to use the reporting system that will be displayed online.	Step 3: 🗙 Create communication material	
Action 3: O Identify Minimum Learning Outcomes	Step 1: O Identify inclusive sustainability academic objectives	Step 2: Benchmark from ASU and other universities that have undertaken similar efforts	Step 3: O Professional development opportunities to foster the creation of innovative strategies	Step 4: X Create a digital space where instructors can find tools and resources
Action 4: O Determine feasibility of a student sustainability hub	<b>Step 1:</b> Establish a project team sponsored by the Sustainability Office	Step 2: O Work to determine scope, opportunities, and barriers	Step 3: Publish feasibility study which details need for Student Sustainability Hub.	

Note: Copy and Paste the appropriate 'status icon' into the upper right hand corner of

each **step** above to complete the Steps Status.

# **ACTION:**

# Adopt a University-wide Definition of Sustainability



### Steps we will take in FY 2021

- UW community members will participate in a multi-phased engagement process facilitated by UW Sustainability staff in partnership with Population Health Initiative staff to create an inclusive vision and definition of sustainability. Through this work, a task force group will be identified composed of interested members of the different colleges, schools, and units across the three campuses, who will work on socializing and creating this framework.
- 2. After the UW Environmental Stewardship Committee approves this shared framework, it will be published together with a set of tools and resources to guide its implementation.
- 3. Seek funding for a .50 or 1.0 FTE Sustainability Academic Coordinator manager position to help in the advancement and implementation of academic and research goals contained in this plan.

### Financing

No additional financing needed in FY 2021.

### Metrics

The first year will develop a process for gathering input to assess how we are engaging across our campuses. Quantitative and qualitative data will assess the potential impacts of the following:

- Representation of faculty from Seattle, Bothell, Tacoma campuses.
- Representation of diversity, co-curricular groups and RSOs.
- Representation of staff input.

This action enables changes that can affect STARS credit AC-2 *Learning Outcomes* where UW shows a point gap of 5.86.

5.86 AAHSE STARS POINTS OPPORTUNIT

### Adopt a University-wide Definition of Sustainability

#### NO PROGRESS

ON TIME

STATUS

STEP 1:

UW community members will participate in a multi-phased engagement process facilitated by UW Sustainability staff in partnership with Population Health Initiative staff to create an inclusive vision and definition of sustainability. Through this work, a task force group will be identified composed of interested members of the different colleges, schools, and units across the three campuses, who will work on socializing and creating this framework

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

- A Faculty Advisory Group of approximately 14-20 members from diverse disciplines has formed and this work has begun.
- This group has met twice and represents the core group of faculty which will be joined by students to develop a definition of sustainability.
- Members of this group are reviewing previous work that was undertaken in 2015 for a UW definition of sustainability.

#### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

- The challenges associated with previous efforts in 2015 toward a UW definition of sustainability are being reviewed to provide a starting place for current dialogue.
- Coming to single definition of sustainability is challenging in academia and it has been suggested that this should not hold up or preclude other steps in this action from being achieved.

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#### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

- Review the previous work and documentation that was compiled in 2015 toward a UW Sustainability definition.
- Convene a workshop with students and other faculty to determine the underlying values and scope for a definition of sustainability.

### Adopt a University-wide Definition of Sustainability

#### NO PROGRESS

ON TIME

PROGRESS

**STATUS** 

# **STEP 2:**

After the UW Environmental Stewardship Committee approves this shared framework, it will be published together with a set of tools and resources to guide its implementation.

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

- A Faculty Advisory Group is being convened to inform this Step
- This group has begun discussions of the scope and goals for this work

### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:



### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

• The Faculty Advisory Group will continue to develop a set of tools and resources associated with the work of this step.

### Adopt a University-wide Definition of Sustainability

# **STEP 3:**

Seek funding for a .50 or 1.0 FTE Sustainability Academic Coordinator manager position to help in the advancement and implementation of academic and research goals contained in this plan.

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

• The .50 FTE Graduate Student employee of the UW Seattle Sustainability Office has been fulfilling the general scope of this role in the interim until a dedicated 1.0 FTE Sustainability Academic Coordinator can be funded.

#### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

• Budget constraints due to COVID has made the funding of this position untenable at this time.

STATUS

ON TIME

### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

- The .50 FTE Graduate Student employee of the UW Seattle Sustainability Office will continue to work closely with Faculty Advisory Group to facilitate the work toward a definition of sustainability
- During Fall quarter a workshop will be organized to bring in the diverse perspective of students to joing the Faculty Advisory Group and help inform the definition of sustainability.

### **ACTION 1**

# **METRICS & LINKAGES:**

Work with Population Health Initiative and UW Sustainability STARS reporting data on sustainability-focused courses to identify themes. ACTION: Adopt a University-wide Definition of Sustainability. Review and consider findings from prior work

#### **METRICS**:

Previous work on a definition of sustainability is being reviewed by the Faculty Advisory Group to act as a baseline starting place.

#### LINKAGES:

The definition of Sustainability is a primary precursor to the other Actions:

- Develop Standardized Reporting of Academic Content
- Identify Minimum Learning Outcomes

### **ACTION:**

# Develop Standardized Reporting of Academic Content



### Steps we will take in FY 2021

- Using the shared sustainability framework as a reference, build a centralized reporting platform to collect information across campuses and assess the degree to which sustainability is incorporated in existing courses. Developing and implementing common metrics for tracking progress towards the attainment of this goal set forth in this plan are essential to realizing the goals of tri-campus coordination and accountability.
- 2. To ensure the proper entry of data, design a set of instructions on how to use the reporting system that will be displayed online.
- 3. Create communication material that will be offered to administrators, personnel in charge of academic affairs and students in each College and School across the campuses. It may also be available to students.

### Statuses and linkages

This will be overseen by the UW Sustainability Project Manager who coordinates STARS reporting in partnership with Population Health and cataloging of academic research. Tied to Target I – *Expand Professional Development Opportunities for Faculty and Staff.* 

### Financing

No additional financing needed in FY 2021.

### Metrics

- Number of new courses added / 2018 STARS data for academic courses.
- Yes/No completion of inventory.

This Action enables changes that can affect STARS credit AC-1 *Academic Courses* where UW shows a point gap of 1.85.

### **Develop Standardized Reporting of Academic Content**

# **STEP 1:**

Using the shared sustainability framework as a reference, build a centralized reporting platform to collect information across campuses and assess the degree to which sustainability is incorporated in existing courses. Developing and implementing common metrics for tracking progress towards the attainment of this goal set forth in this plan are essential to realizing the goals of tri-campus coordination and accountability.

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

- UW Sustainability is currently using STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment Rating System) as a standardized tool for reporting of academic content.
- Using the Earth Charter, we identified 30 search terms for each of the spheres of sustainability (economic, social, environmental) for a total of 90 search terms.
- We queried the UW course catalogue using these search terms. Original result produced over 8,000 courses. 700+ were excluded for being non-related to sustainability, approximately 3,500+ were identified as duplicates resulting from courses identified by multiple search terms. This left approximately 4,800 courses.
- These courses were then reviewed and identified as either sustainability-focused or sustainability-related. Courses such as "Topics in...", "Survey on...", "Special Topics", capstones, research, etc. were identified as sustainability-related. Departments with courses that appeared in the course list were tabulated for departments that include at least one course in sustainability.

### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

• NA

### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

- Review the current reporting process and platform used for STARS and determine if this is sufficient and/or what is missing from this methodology.
- Develop a standardized methodology with input from faculty advisory group

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**STATUS** 

ON TIME

SOME PROGRSS

### **Develop Standardized Reporting of Academic Content**

# **STEP 2:**

To ensure the proper entry of data, design a set of instructions on how to use the reporting system that will be displayed online.

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

- No action has occured to develop a set of instructions for reporting of academic content because this Step is dependent on Step 1 for completion.
- Step 1 has not been reviewed and/or agreed on as the platform for identifying academic content.

#### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

**STATUS** 

ON TIME

SOME PROGRESS

NO PROGRESS

• NA

### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

• Determine the preferred method for reporting of academic content either using the STARS platform or developing another system that accessible to the whole UW system

### **Develop Standardized Reporting of Academic Content**

#### NO PROGRESS



ON TIME

**STATUS** 

# **STEP 3:**

Create communication material that will be offered to administrators, personnel in charge of academic affairs and students in each College and School across the campuses. It may also be available to students.

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

 No action has occured to develop communication material for the reporting of academic content because this Step is dependent on Step 1 for completion.

### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

• NA

### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

• Faculty Advisory Group will provide input to UW Sustainability Communications staff for communications material

### **ACTION 2**

# **METRICS & LINKAGES:**

This will be overseen by the UW Sustainability Project Manager who coordinates STARS reporting in partnership with Population Health and cataloging of academic research. Tied to Target I – Expand Professional Development Opportunities for Faculty and Staff.

#### **METRICS**:

- Using STARS as a baseline of data compiled in July of 2018:
- <u>https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/university-of-washington-seattle-wa</u>/report/2018-10-12/AC/curriculum/AC-1/

Percentage of Courses that are Sustainability Course Offerings: 28.5%

Total number of academic departments that offer courses (at any level): 448

Number of academic departments (or the equivalent) that offer at least one sustainability course and/or course that includes sustainability (at any level): **279** 

Percentage of academic departments with sustainability course offerings: 62.3%

#### LINKAGES:

• Tied to Target I – Expand Professional Development Opportunities for Faculty and Staff.

### ACTION: Identify Minimum Learning Outcomes



### Steps we will take in FY 2021

- 1. Identify inclusive sustainability academic objectives that can be incorporated in existing and new courses.
- 2. Benchmark from ASU and other universities that have undertaken similar efforts to integrate sustainability core competencies in curriculum.
- 3. Facilitate professional development opportunities for faculty and other instructors to foster the creation of innovative and interdisciplinary pedagogical strategies around inclusive sustainability.
- 4. Create a digital space where instructors can find tools and resources to better incorporate inclusive sustainability academic objectives in their courses.

### Financing

No additional financing needed in FY 2021.

### Metrics

The first year we will develop baseline data to determine where inclusive sustainability objectives can be incorporated and how those objectives will impact course outcomes.

This action can gain points in STARS credit AC-2 *Learning Outcomes* where UW shows a point gap of 5.86.

### 5.86 AAHSE STARS POINTS OPPORTUNITY

### STATUS





PROGRESS

### **STEP 1:**

Identify inclusive sustainability academic objectives that can be incorporated in existing and new courses.

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

- A Faculty Advisory Group is being convened to inform this Step
- This group has begun discussions of the scope and goals for this work

### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

NA

### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

• Continue to work with the Faculty Advisory Group to identify academic objectives that can be incorporated into learning outcomes.

### **STEP 2:**

Benchmark from ASU and other universities that have undertaken similar efforts to integrate sustainability core competencies in curriculum.

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

• The UW Sustainability Office is coordinating with the Program on the Environments course ENVIR 480 - Sustainability Studio in Winter quarter to have a student perform the benchmarking of other peer universities.

#### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

**STATUS** 

ON TIME

SOME PROGRESS

• NA

### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

• Determine the scope and goals for the benchmarking or peer institutions that will be developed into the ENVIR 480 student capstone research project.

# **STEP 3:**

Facilitate professional development opportunities for faculty and other instructors to foster the creation of innovative and interdisciplinary pedagogical strategies around inclusive sustainability.

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

- A Faculty Advisory Group is being convened to inform this Step
- This group has begun discussions of the scope and goals for this work

### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

STATUS

ON TIME

SOME PROGRESS

NA

### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

• Continue to work with the Faculty Advisory Group to identify professional development opportunities for faculty which fosters innovative, interdisciplinary strategies for sustainability learning outcomes.



PROGRESS

# STEP 4:

Create a digital space where instructors can find tools and resources to better incorporate inclusive sustainability academic objectives in their courses.

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

A Faculty Advisory Group is being convened to inform this Step
 This group has not yet discussed this Step in depth

### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

• NA

### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

• Develop the scope, needs and goals for an online platform to find tools and resources for sustainability academic content and outcomes.

### **ACTION 3**

# **METRICS & LINKAGES:**

This is tied to the UW-Wide Sustainability Definition.

#### **METRICS:**

- Using STARS as a baseline of data compiled in July of 2018: https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/university-of-washington-seattle-wa /report/2018-10-12/AC/curriculum/AC-2/

Number of students that graduate from programs that have adopted at least one sustainability learning outcome: 4,390

Percentage of students who graduate from programs that have adopted at least one sustainability learning outcome: 26.7%

### LINKAGES:

Identifying minimum learning outcomes is strongly linked with developing a UW wide definition of Sustainability

### ACTION: Determine Feasibility of a Student Sustainability Hub



#### Steps we will take in FY 2021

- Establish a project team to be sponsored by the UW Sustainability Office that includes the Student Outreach Coordinator for SAP, CSF Program Manager, and students from ASUW, GPSS, Student Life, and RSOs.
- Work with campus stakeholders to determine the scope, opportunities, and barriers through interviews, research into existing UW Centers/Initiatives and case studies of other universities. Review and present to ASUW, GPSS, Student Life and administrative stakeholders.
- 3. Publish a final feasibility study which details the need for the Student Sustainability Hub, use cases, funding model, partnerships with other departments, potential locations and staffing to begin in FY22 or FY23.

#### Statuses and linkages

These could be coordinated with the positions suggested for the UW-Wide Sustainability Definition Task Force.

The UW Sustainability Office, Campus Sustainability Fund, ASUW, GPSS and student RSOs have begun to explore this idea though current limitations are space/location and on-going funding resources.

This Action is closely linked with other UW Sustainability Plan Actions: One UW Wide Sustainability Framework by 2022; Double Student, Staff and Faculty Sustainability Impressions by 2024; Double Sustainability Research Projects by 2025.

#### Financing

For FY21, UW Sustainability office hired a .50 FTE graduate student Student Outreach Coordinator dedicated to student engagement for the Sustainability Plan. This position will continue towards this Action.

Future financing for implementation and staffing of the Student Sustainability Hub could come from multiple sources including a resource pooling of departments/units including Campus Sustainability Fund, Student Life, Central Provost Office (for academics), and student government bodies GPSS and ASUW. A student fee could also be a potential funding option.

#### Metrics

The first year is dedicated to determining the feasibility of establishing a Student Sustainability Hub, and we will therefore achieve the following:

- Mapping student-centered services and support from all campuses that are related to sustainability.
- Perform a benefit cost analysis of the potential impacts and outcomes of a Sustainability Hub.
- Benchmark with peer institutions and gap analysis.

Student efforts, through the Campus Sustainability Fund mechanism, have historically worked to advance many of UW STARS targets and actions listed in this plan: Local Food; Divert compostable waste from recycle, landfill; Solar Photovoltaic Expansion.

### **Determine Feasibility of a Student Sustainability Hub**

# **STEP 1:**

Establish a project team to be sponsored by the UW Sustainability Office that includes the Student Outreach Coordinator for SAP, CSF Program Manager, and students from ASUW, GPSS, Student Life, and RSOs.

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

- The SAP Student Outreach Coordinator and CSF Program manager have identified student groups to be on the project team
- Some of the student(s) and student groups have been contacted some have not, the project group has not fully formed..

#### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

- Due to COVID 19 and it being Summer quarter it has been challenging to get students to respond to requests to participate in project team.
- It is expected that this challenge will be overcome in Fall quarter.

#### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

- Finish forming project team
- Contact representative from ASUW, GPSS and student RSO's to join project team now that the quarter has started
- Finalize Project scope for the feasibility study
- Establish workplan for completion of feasibility study by Spring 2021

### **Determine Feasibility of a Student Sustainability Hub**

# **STEP 2:**

Work with campus stakeholders to determine the scope, opportunities, and barriers through interviews, research into existing UW Centers/Initiatives and case studies of other universities. Review and present to ASUW, GPSS, Student Life and administrative stakeholders.

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

- Began interviews with peer institutions and setting up more interviews.
- Began working with UW Stakeholders from ASUW, GPSS, Population Health and EarthLab on past efforts, existing opportunities and barriers.

#### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

- The only challenge was due to students from ASUW & GPSS being less accessible because it was summer quarter.
- It is expected that this challenge will be overcome in Fall quarter.

### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

• Meet with ASUW and GPSS student representatives to understand how existing student centers have been formed and funded.

### **Determine Feasibility of a Student Sustainability Hub**

# **STEP 3:**

Publish a final feasibility study which details the need for the Student Sustainability Hub, use cases, funding model, partnerships with other departments, potential locations and staffing to begin in FY22 or FY23.

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

 An outline for the feasibility study has been completed and is being finalized Fall quarter with input from UW Sustainability stakeholders:
 Research of case studies and peer institutions has begun.

### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

• No Challenges were encountered.

### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

- Finalize scope and outline for the feasibility study.
- Finish analysis of case studies and interviews with peer institutions
- Begin analysis of needs, use cases and stakeholder evaluation at UW.
- Begin assessment of potential locations

### **ACTION 4**

# **METRICS & LINKAGES:**

These could be coordinated with the positions suggested for the UW-Wide Sustainability Definition Task Force. The UW Sustainability Office, Campus Sustainability Fund, ACTION: Determine Feasibility of a Student Sustainability Hub ASUW, GPSS and student RSOs have begun to explore this idea though current limitations are space/location and on-going funding resources. This Action is closely linked with other UW Sustainability Plan Actions: One UW Wide Sustainability Framework by 2022; Double Student, Staff and Faculty Sustainability Impressions by 2024; Double Sustainability Research Projects by 2025

### **METRICS:**

The first year is dedicated to determining the feasibility of establishing a Student Sustainability Hub, and we will therefore achieve the following:

- Mapping student-centered services and support from all campuses that are related to sustainability.
  - This work has begun and is being coordinated with ASUW, GPSS who are located in the Seattle campus student HUB which is a potential location for the Sustainability Hub.
  - Work on mapping student services at Bothell and Tacoma have not begun.
- Perform a benefit cost analysis of the potential impacts and outcomes of a Sustainability Hub.
  - This work has not begun but will be included in the Feasibility Study. Expected completion is Spring quarter.
- Benchmark with peer institutions and gap analysis.
  - This work has begun and will be included in the Feasibility study. Expected completion is Winter Quarter.

### LINKAGES:

- This Action has primary linkages with other Actions within Target 2: One UW Wide Sustainability Framework by 2022 Adopt a UW Wide Definition of Sustainability and Identify Minimum Learning Outcomes.
- Secondary linkages with Actions in Targets 3: Double Sustainability Oriented Research Projects by 2025 - Expand Campus as a Living Laboratory.
- As such, the Steps for this Action are being implemented in coordination with the advisory working group for Targets 2 & 3.
- There are also strong linkages with Target 1: Double Student, Staff and Faculty Engagement by 2024, Action - Inventory and Expand Community Engagement as that relates to promoting engagement with Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) who will be served by a Student Sustainability Hub.